



# UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## Division of Professional Licensing

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Executive Director

MARK B. STEINAGEL  
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Lieutenant Governor

Massage Therapy Regulation in Utah - Business and Labor Interim Committee - June 14, 2023									
<b>License Types and Number of Licensees</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Massage Therapists</td><td>6,653</td></tr> <tr> <td>Massage Apprentices</td><td>98</td></tr> <tr> <td>Massage Assistants (2023)</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Massage Assistants In Training (2023)</td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	Massage Therapists	6,653	Massage Apprentices	98	Massage Assistants (2023)	0	Massage Assistants In Training (2023)	0
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<b>Massage Therapist Scope of Practice</b>	<p>Utah Code Annotated Section 58-47b-102 <b>"Practice of massage therapy" means:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the examination, assessment, and evaluation of the soft tissue structures of the body for the purpose of devising a treatment plan to promote homeostasis;</li> <li>(b) the systematic manual or mechanical manipulation of the soft tissue of the body for the purpose of promoting the therapeutic health and well-being of a client, enhancing the circulation of the blood and lymph, relaxing and lengthening muscles, relieving pain, restoring metabolic balance, or achieving homeostasis, or for any other purpose;</li> <li>(c) the use of the hands or a mechanical or electrical apparatus in connection with this Subsection (10);</li> <li>(d) the use of rehabilitative procedures involving the soft tissue of the body;</li> <li>(e) range of motion or movements without spinal adjustment as set forth in Section 58-73-102;</li> <li>(f) the use of oil rubs, heat lamps, salt glows, hot and cold packs, or tub, shower, steam, and cabinet baths;</li> <li>(g) manual traction and stretching exercise;</li> <li>(h) correction of muscular distortion by treatment of the soft tissues of the body;</li> <li>(i) counseling, education, and other advisory services to reduce the incidence and severity of physical disability, movement dysfunction, and pain;</li> <li>(j) activities and modality techniques similar or related to the activities and techniques described in this Subsection (10);</li> <li>(k) a practice described in this Subsection (10) on an animal to the extent permitted by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Subsection 58-28-307(12); (ii) the provisions of this chapter; and (iii) division rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; or</li> <li>(l) providing, offering, or advertising a paid service using the term massage or a derivative of the word massage, regardless of whether the service includes physical contact.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>								
<b>Board Members and 2022 Board Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advisory Board is comprised of four licensed massage therapists and one member of the public</li> <li>- Board meets at least six times each year, and met 10 times in 2022</li> <li>- Board provides professional expertise to DOPL without controlling the licensing decisions</li> </ul>								
<b>Key Requirements for Licensure for Massage Therapists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 600 hours of approved education or 1,000 hours of an approved apprenticeship</li> <li>- Pass the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx)</li> <li>- Submit an application, pay a fee, consent to criminal background check, and be at least 18 years of age</li> <li>- Comply with ethical standards and avoid unprofessional and unlawful conduct</li> </ul>								
<b>Massage Therapy Cases in 2022</b>	<p><b>Cases Received: 90</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ethical: 32</li> <li>- Sexual Misconduct: 8</li> <li>- Unauthorized Practice: 32</li> <li>- Aiding Unlicensed Practice: 5</li> <li>- Criminal Conduct: 5</li> <li>- Practice Beyond Scope of License: 5</li> <li>- Other: 3</li> </ul>								
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	DOPL investigators coordinate dozens of cases each year with local law enforcement								
<b>Health Profession</b>	In some states massage therapy regulation is administered through other medical-care professions								